

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TAGS: PINT PFOR KS JA

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATION ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

SUMMARY: AS PREDICTED, PRO-GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE FOCUSED ON ANTI-JAPANESE THEMES. THEY ALSO SURFACED POSSIBILITY KIM TAE-CHUNG MAY BE GUILTY OF CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE. FOR HIS PART, PRIME MINISTER'S APPROACH HAS BEEN ONE OF STUDIES MODERATION, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS GOJ. AT SAME TIME, HE AND OTHER MINISTERS HAVE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN TO INVESTIGATION OF KIM'S ALLEGED ANTI-STATE ACTIVITY ABROAD. OPPOSITION QUESTIONER KIM YONG-SAM ACCUSED GOVERNMENT OF "POLITICAL TERRORISM" AND SUPPRESSING DEMOCRACY AND DEMANDED THAT GOVERNMENT CONCLUDE INVESTIGATION SATISFACTORILY AND SPEEDILY.

1. TWO PRO-GOVERNMENT MEMBERS, ONE OPPOSITION REPRESENTATIVE AND ONE INDEPENDENT QUESTIONED GOVERNMENT ABOUT KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE DURING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS SEPTEMBER 22 AND 24. REVITALIZATION GROUP (RG) REPRESENTATIVES KIM YONG-SONG SEPT. 22
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AND SHIN HYONG-SIK SEPT 24 BOTH RESTATED IN

EMOTIONAL TERMS LONG HISTORY OF JAPANESE MISDEEDS
AGAINST KOREA. SPEAKERS INTER ALIA ALLEGED
JAPANESE HAD NO BUSINESS OBJECTING TO ANY
VIOLATIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY BY KOREANS IN VIEW OF
PAST JAPANESE ACTIONS.

2. A SECOND THEME IN BOTH RG MEMBERS' QUESTIONS WAS
ACCUSATION THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG WAS GUILTY OF "CRIMES
AGAINST THE STATE AND NATION" BY HIS ACTIVITIES
ABROAD. THEY ALLEGED KIM HAD ADVOCATED WITHDRAWAL
OF US TROOPS AND SUSPENSION OF US MILITARY AID
AND JAPANESE ECONOMIC AID TO THE ROK AND HAD
SUPPORTED KIM IL-SONG'S PROPOSAL FOR A CONFEDERATION
OF SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA.

3. IN HIS REPLIES, PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL GAVE
AN IMPRESSION OF STUDIED MODERATION. HE MADE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. UNFAIR STATEMENTS BY JAPANESE PRESS AND
POLITICIANS DO NOT REPRESENT POSITION OF JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT;

B. ROK IS NOT CONSIDERING SENDING KIM TAE-
CHUNG TO JAPAN;

C. KIDNAPPING INDEED REVEALED LAXITY IN
ROK'S COASTAL DEFENSES;

D. KIM TAE-CHUNG IS BEING PROTECTED AS A
VICTIM, NOT DETAINED AS A SUSPECT; AND

E. GOVERNMENT HAS HEARD STORIES ABOUT KIM
TAE-CHUNG'S ACTIVITIES ABROAD BUT HAS NOT
INVESTIGATED. PRIMIN SAID ACCUSATIONS, IF TRUE,
WOULD CONSTITUTE A "SERIOUS CRIME AGAINST THE
STATE".

4. OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY REPRESENTATIVE
KIM YONG-SAM IN HIS INTERPELLATION SEPTEMBER 24
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CITED KIM TAE-CHUNG CAS AS AN EXAMPLE OF "TERRORIST
POLITICS" OF PARK REGIME. HE COMPARED INCIDENT TO
ACID-THROWING INCIDENT WHICH HE SUFFERED IN 1969
AND WHICH REMAINS UNSOLVED. HE SAID PUBLIC DESERVES
A SPEEDY AND PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION OF KIDNAPPING. HE
DESCRIBED PERIODIC REPORTS BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE ON
INVESTIGATION INTO KIM CASE AS LUDICROUS AND
CONTEMPTUOUS OF PUBLIC OPINION. HE POINTED OUT

THAT NORTH KOREA, USING INCIDENT AS A EXCUSE, HAD SUSPENDED SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE, "WIPING OUT HOPES FOR THE UNIFICATION WHICH HAD BEEN USED TO JUSTIFY THE OCTOBER INCIDENT" (I.E. OCTOBER REVITALIZATION).

5. KIM YONG-SAM ASKED WHETHER KIM TAE-CHUNG WOULD BE FREE TO ENGAGE IN POLITICS AFTER INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. TO THIS, PRIME MINISTER REPLIED ONLY THAT "CURRENT RESTRICTIONS" ON KIM TAE-CHUNG WOULD END WHEN INVESTIGATION WAS COMPLETED.

6. DURING HIS COMMENTS, INFORMATION MINISTER YUN CHU-YONG ASSERTED THAT ROK PRESS AND "VOLUNTARILY REFRAINED FROM PRINTING ANYTHING OTHER THAN OFFICIAL REPORTS" ON KIM INCIDENT AFTER THEY REALIZED THE GRAVITY OF THE CASE. YUN DESCRIBED A DEMAND BY KIM YONG-SONG FOR EXPULSION OF ALL JAPANESE REPORTERS AS "TOO EXTREME". HE SAID ROKG WOULD FIRST WARN THEM AND WOULD EXPEL THEM ONLY IF THEY PERSISTED IN PRINTING DISTORTIONS.

7. COMMENT: ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATION HAS DEVELOPED ALONG PREDICTED LINES. AT DIRECTION OF THE GOVT. RG SPEAKERS HAVE FOCUSED SOLELY ON ANTI-JAPANESE AND ANTI-KIM TAE-CHUNG THEMES IN EMOTIONAL, EXCESSIVE FASHION INVITING DISBELIEF. FOR HIS PART, PRIMIN KIM HAS BEEN RESTRAINED, AVOIDING DIRECT CRITICISM OF GOJ AND MUTING EXCESSES OF PRO-GOVT PARLIAMENTARIANS. HOWEVER, PRIMIN WAS EQUIVOCAL ABOUT ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF KIM CASE, INCLUDING KIM'S ALLEGED ANTI-STATE CRIMES.

8. KIM YONG-SAM'S INTERPELLATION WAS SURPRISINGLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORTHRIGHT IN CONTRAST TO LINE TAKEN BY GOVT SPEAKERS. INTERPELLATION ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE CONCLUDES SEPT. 25 WITH QUESTIONS BY ONE NDP AND TWO DRP SPEAKERS.
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